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TYRANNY-- LIKE A DARK CLOUD IT SHADOWS A LAND, CAUSING THE VALIANT TO REBEL, CREATING WAR...

WAR-- ITS SOLDIERS ARE OFTEN CALLED **FREEDOM FIGHTERS**, WHO ARE SOMETIMES DRIVEN TO DESPERATE ACTS, EVEN AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED NEUTRALITY...

NEUTRALITY-- A POSITION IN WAR THE FABLED **FLOATING ISLAND** HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MAINTAIN AS ITS NATIVES LOOK FOR HOPE FROM ITS **GUARDIAN**...

GUARDIAN-- THE ONE BEING THEY DEPEND ON TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE DESPERATE ACTS OF THOSE IN SEARCH OF **FREEDOM** AND THEIR WAR'S INVASION...

INVASION-- SOMETHING **KNUCKLES** THE **ECHIDNA** NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONTEND WITH FROM THE LIKES OF **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**!

ARE YOU CRAZY-- BARGING IN HERE AND DEMANDING I FORK OVER MY **CHAOS EMERALD** ?!

WITHOUT IT, MY **ISLAND** WILL FALL!

I'VE GOTTA HAVE IT -- THE FATE OF **MOBIUS** DEPENDS ON IT!

"IN EVERY KINGDOM THERE MUST EXIST A LITTLE CHAOS!"

PART 1

SCRIPT: KENT TAYLOR ART: ART MAWHINNEY INKER: PHIL SHEEHY LETTERING: MINDY EISMAN COLORING: BARRY GROSSMAN EDITOR: J. FREDDY GABRIE MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

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ROBOTNIK JUST TRIED TO SINK MY ISLAND*-- NOW YOU WANT TO FINISH THE JOB?!

BRACK!

≥OFF! NO, BUT DURING THAT BATTLE I LEARNED YOU HAD A SPARE EMERALD WHICH YOU STOLE FROM THE POWER RING GROTTOS!*

THAT GROTTOS ON WHAT USED TO BE ROYAL REAL ESTATE AND BY RIGHTS IT BELONGS TO KING ACORN'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

KRAK!

≥UGH! SEZ YOU! I NEED THAT EXTRA EMERALD FOR "HOME OWNER'S INSURANCE" AND I WON'T GIVE IT UP!

*NO, YOU DIDN'T MISS A THING, FANS. READ THE SONICQUEST LIMITED SERIES FOR THE LOWDOWN. ON SALE NOW!-- Fred-x1

* SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES #1-Freddy x2

SONIC! KNUCKLES! STOP! THIS WON'T SAVE KING ACORN'S LIFE!

WHAT'S HE MEAN? THE KING'S IMPRISONED!

NOT ANY MORE! WE FINALLY RESCUED HIM FROM THE ZONE OF SILENCE!****

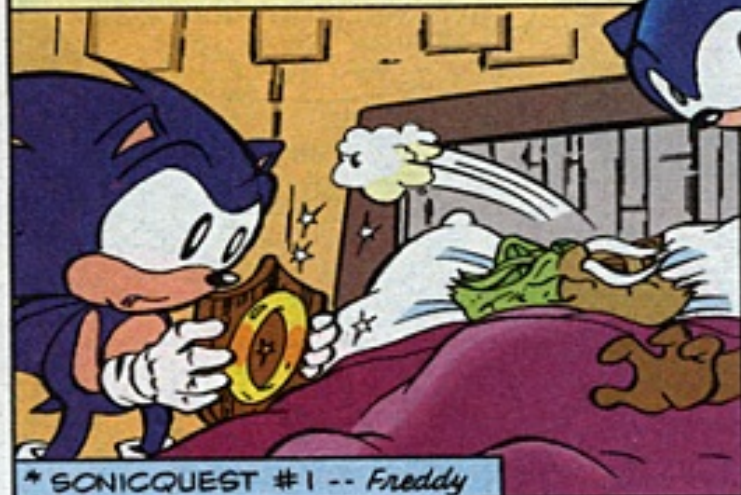
THEN WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SAVING HIS LIFE?

SOME UNKNOWN SIDE EFFECT OF HIS IMPRISONMENT IS TURNING HIS BODY INTO CRYSTAL!****

*** LAST ISSUE -- Freddy x3

**** SONICQUEST #1-- "TOO MANY FOOT-NOTES FREDDY"! 2

"WE TRIED TO USE A POWER RING TO RESTORE HIS HEALTH, BUT IT FAILED!*



* SONICQUEST #1 -- Freddy

"AND WHEN TAILS SAID HE LOOKED LIKE A CHAOS EMERALD* I FIGURED MAYBE A REAL ONE WOULD DO THE TRICK!"



BESIDES, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS COULD USE ITS POWER AGAINST BUTTNIK'S NEW KICK-BUTT INVENTIONS!

IF IT'S POWER YOU NEED, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET MORE RINGS FROM THE GROTTA?

WE GOT THE ONES ROBOTNIK--
MMMPH!*

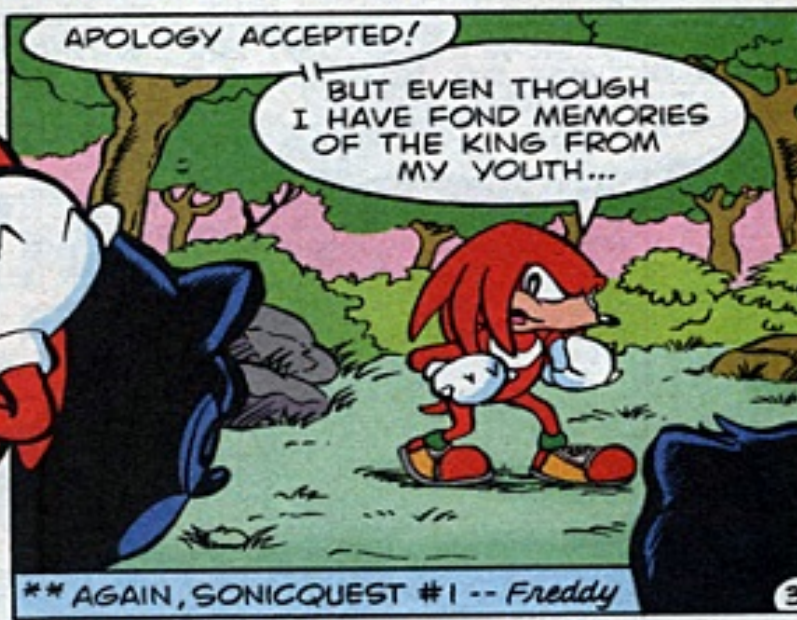
WHAT HE MEANS IS WE TRIED, BUT BUTTNIK** SUCKED IT DRY!



SORRY I WAS HASTY, BUT NOW YOU KNOW I'VE GOTTA HAVE THAT EMERALD!

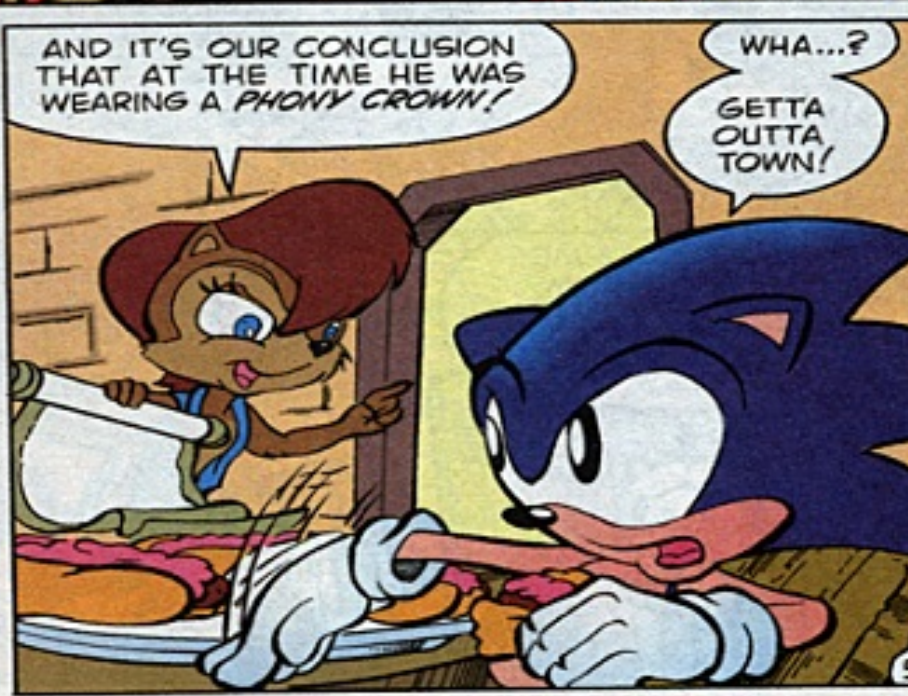
APOLOGY ACCEPTED!

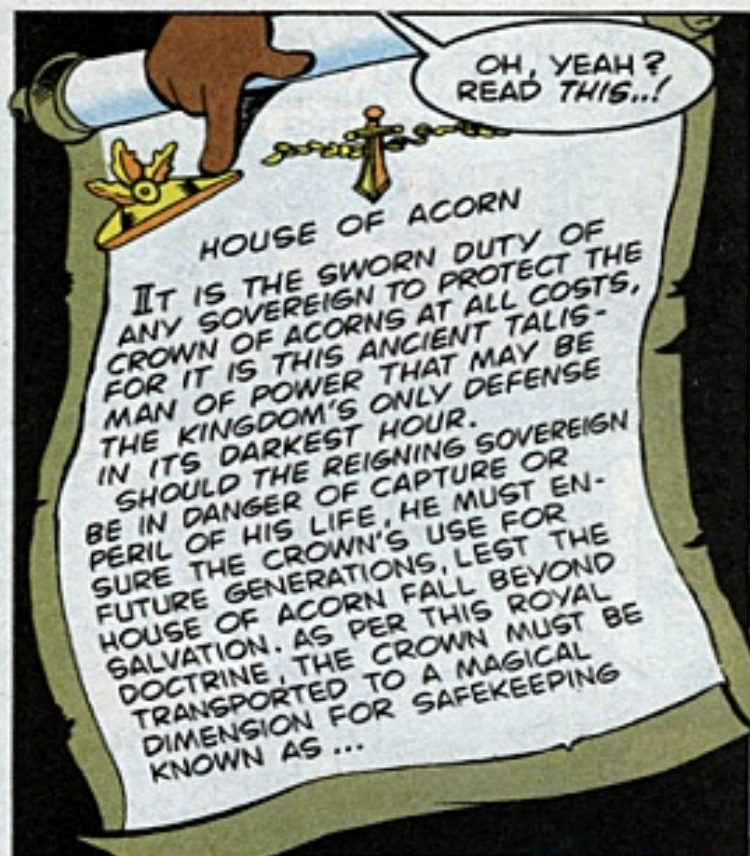
BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THE KING FROM MY YOUTH...



** AGAIN, SONICQUEST #1 -- Freddy







G L E N N C L O S E

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ACCORDING TO ANTOINE & BUNNIE'S REPORT, A RING APPEARS OUT OF THE LAKE ONCE EVERY HOUR. THE NEXT ONE IS DUE TO COME OUT IN A FEW MINUTES.

SO WHY ARE WE WAITING *HERE*, SO FAR FROM THE LAKE "AUNT" SALLY?

WELL, YOU KNOW ITS EXISTENCE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A *SECRET* FROM EVERYONE BUT UNCLE CHUCK AND THE *CORE* FREEDOM FIGHTERS...

"IN EVERY KINGDOM THERE MUST EXIST A LITTLE CHAOS!"

PART 2

... BUT WE'RE WORRIED THAT THOSE *COMBOTS* MAY HAVE TRANSMITTED ITS LOCATION TO BUTTNIK AFTER AMBUSHING US!*

* SONIC # 38 -- Fred

SO UNCLE CHUCK SET UP A MEETING *HERE* WITH FLY FLY FREDDY TO REPORT ON WHAT ROBOTNIK REALLY KNOWS.

THE *SPY NETWORK*** SHOULD KNOW THE SCORE...

... PROVIDING FRED EVER GETS HERE...
~ WHOA! SLEUTH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

SORRY TO STARTLE YOU! FRED'S COVER WAS ALMOST *BLOWN*, BUT I WAS ABLE TO LEAVE ROBOTROPOLIS SAFELY!

LET ME DETAIL *HIS* REPORT WHILE WE HEAD OVER TO THE LAKE!

THIS ISN'T STANDARD PROCEDURE, SOLDIER!

TOO TRUE, SAL! BUT SINCE WE'RE ALREADY *BEHIND* SCHEDULE, I THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM WITH ITS LOCATION!

** LAST SEEN IN SONIC#38 - Fred

MINUTES LATER...

THAT'S A
PRETTY BIZARRE
REPORT, SLEUTH!

TRUE, BUT NOW YOU
KNOW THAT ROBOTNIK
NEVER GOT ANY DATA
BEFORE SONIC DESTROYED
THE COMBOTS!



BUT THANKS TO YOUR
POOR STRATEGIC MANEUVERS TODAY
ROBOTNIK WILL NOW HAVE A NEW
SUPPLY OF POWER RINGS!



SORRY, GUYS!
BUT AS MUCH
AS I LIKED OUR
REBELLION...

... I LOVED
ROBOTNIK'S PROMISE OF
PERSONAL POWER AND
T-BONE STEAKS, BETTER!

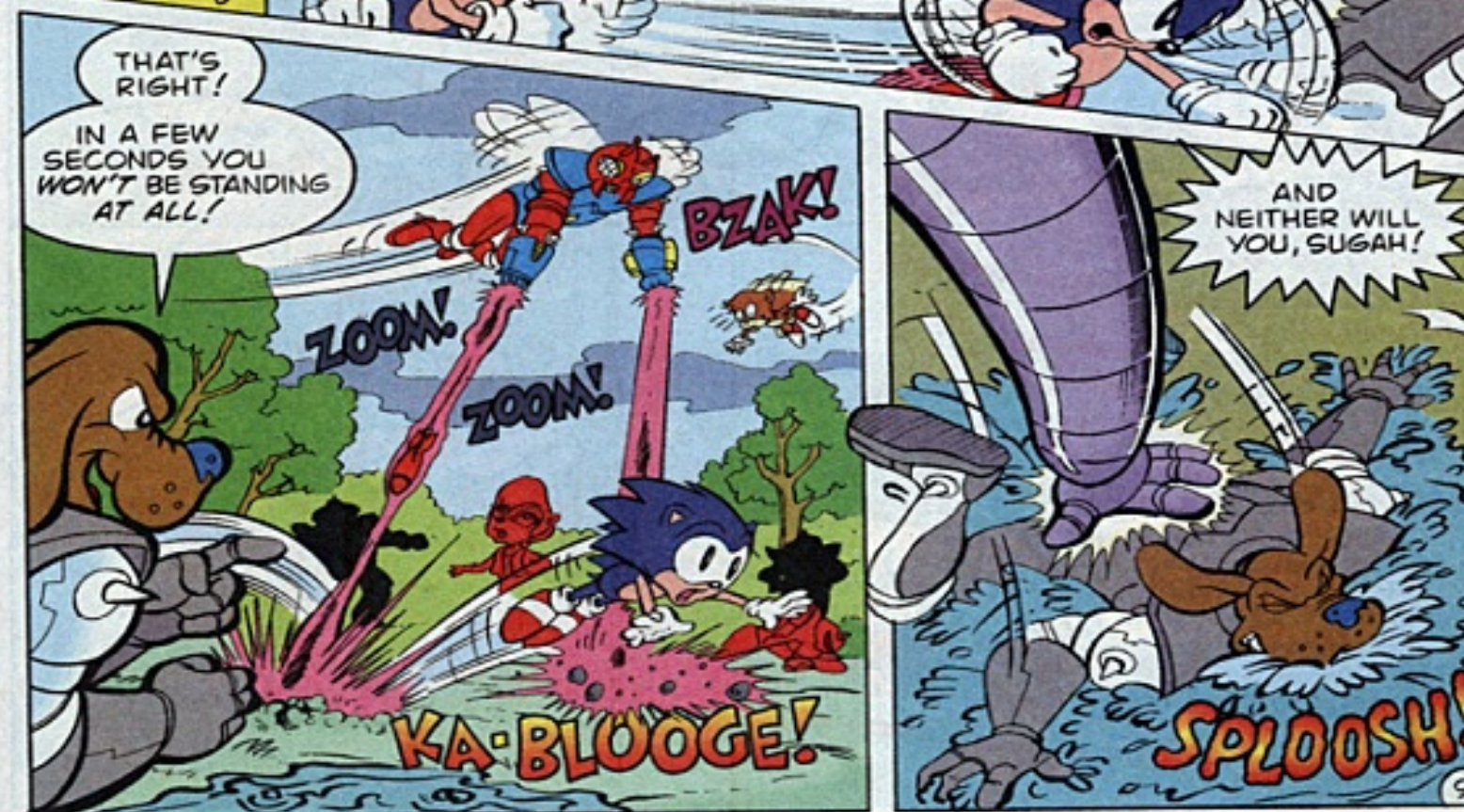
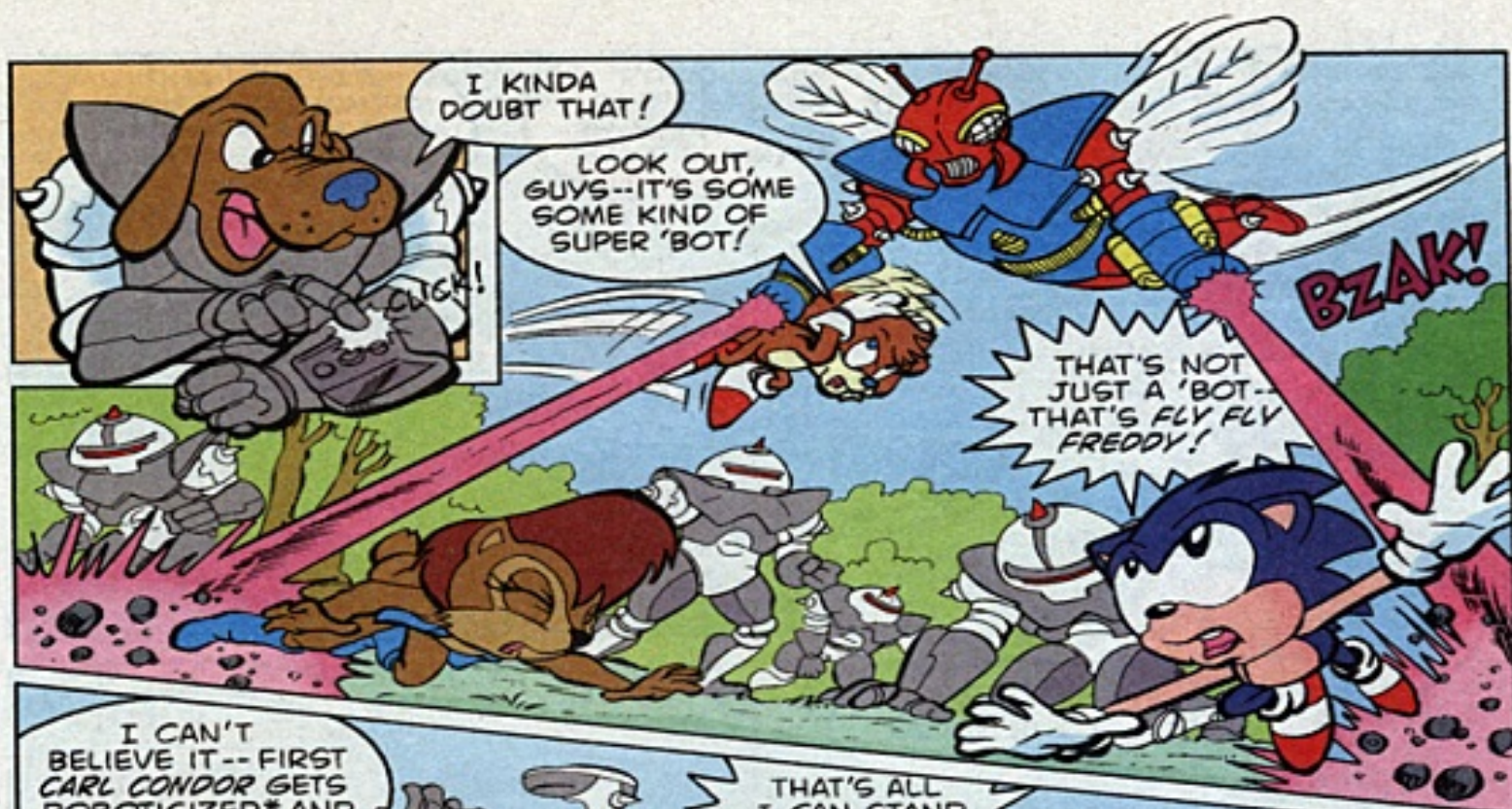


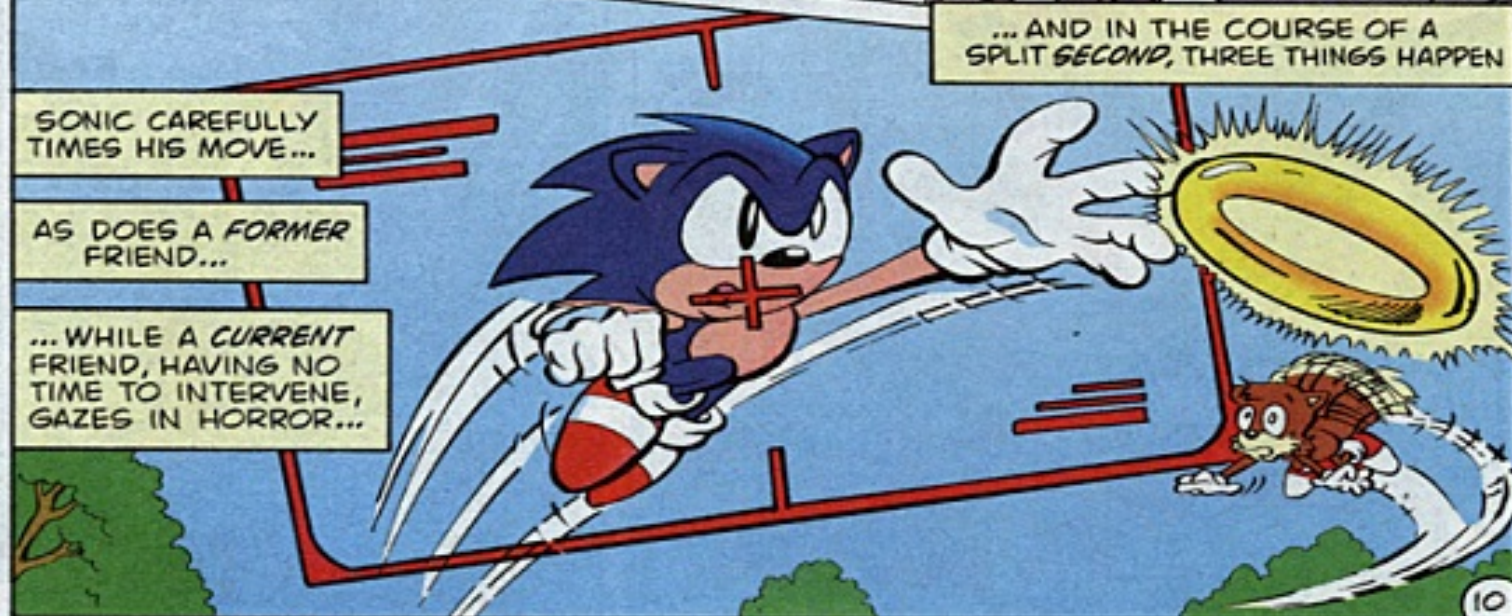
WHY YOU DIRTY
DOG TRAITOR...!

YUA! YOU'RE A
REAL BAD DOGSY!

... AND THE ONLY
FOOD YOU'RE GOING
TO GET IS BREAD AND
WATER... IN A PRISON
KENNEL!







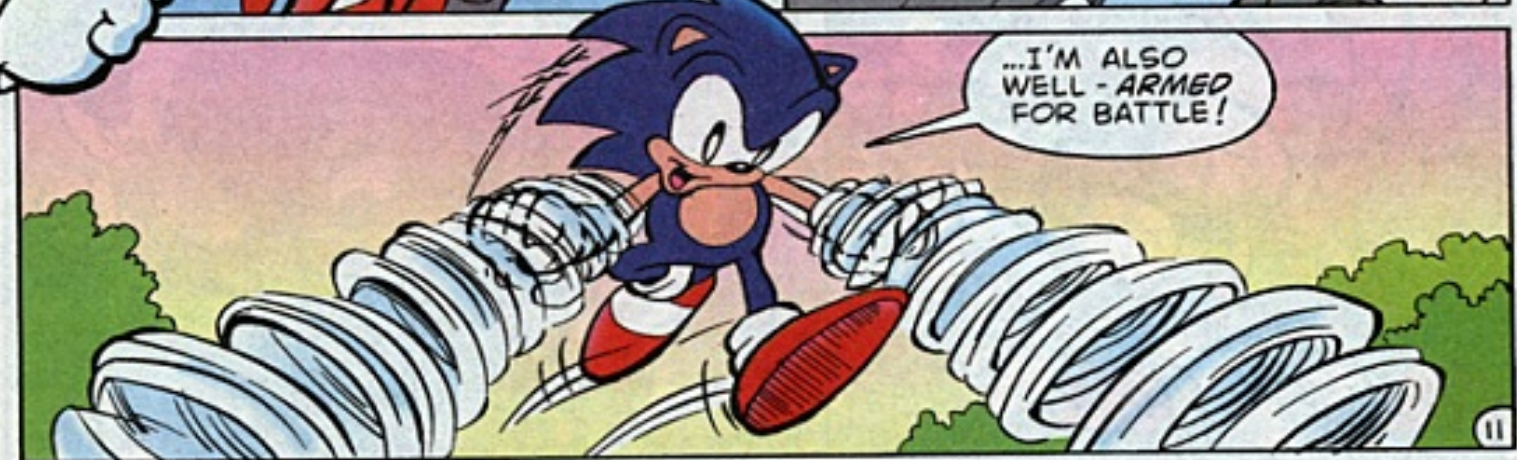
SONIC CAREFULLY
TIMES HIS MOVE...

AS DOES A FORMER
FRIEND...

...WHILE A CURRENT
FRIEND, HAVING NO
TIME TO INTERVENE,
GAZES IN HORROR...

...AND IN THE COURSE OF A
SPLIT SECOND, THREE THINGS HAPPEN

THANKFULLY, THE DAWNING OF A NEW FRIENDSHIP IS WELL-TIMED FOR THE NEXT SECOND WITH SONIC REAPING THE REWARDS!





END OF
PART 2

SO THIS IS
WHAT'S LEFT OF
THE ONCE BEAUTIFUL
KINGDOM OF ACORN?!
WAR SURE LEAVES
ITS SCARS!

I'LL GIVE
YOU THE NICKEL
TOUR LATER!

RIGHT NOW
I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT BROUGHT
YOU HERE?

"IN EVERY
KINGDOM THERE
MUST EXIST A
LITTLE CHAOS!"

PART 3

THAT WAS MY
DOING, SONIC!

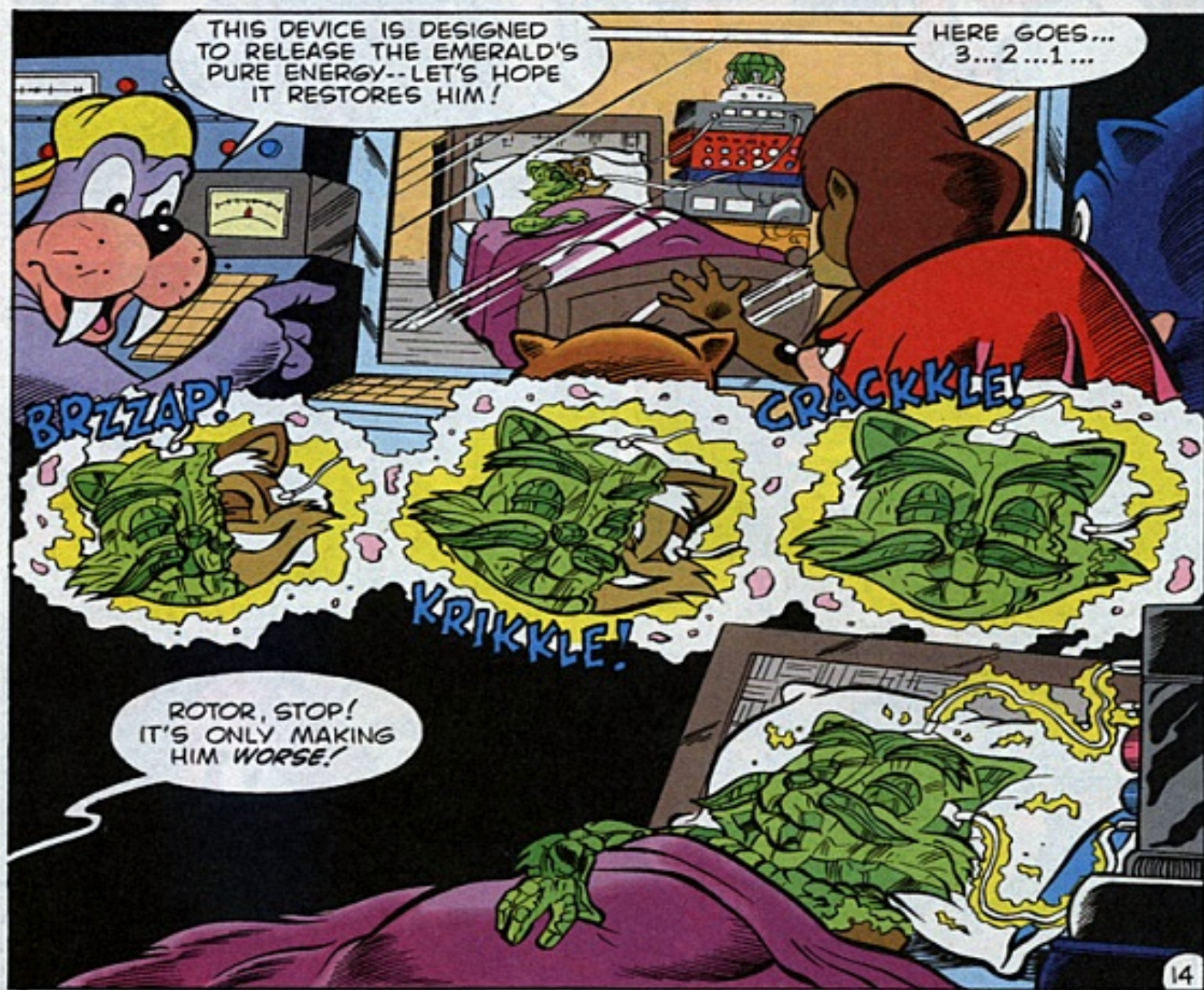
"FOR SOME TIME I'VE
SUSPECTED THERE MAY BE
A DOUBLE AGENT IN OUR
SPY NETWORK..."

"... AND MY FEARS WERE CONFIRMED WHEN
FRED FAILED TO REPORT FOR ORDERS..."

"NOT KNOWING WHO I COULD NOW
TRUST, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO CALL
ON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE..."

"USING AN OUTDATED AND UNTRACEABLE
FREQUENCY, I RADIOED KNUCKLES..."

"NOT ONLY DID HE
AGREE TO HELP..."







Try this
trick
and see
what magic
you can make

A ▶

◀ B



Fold page so
arrow B meets arrow A

Color Change Crystals Add Magic You Can Taste

SPRINKL'INS
DANNON
MAGIC CRYSTALS
NEW! MAGNIFICENT TASTING YOGURT COLORIFIC CRYSTALS

A ▶

Fold this section over left ◀ B

**Elysaar
Kheury
Rabat,
Morocco
Age 13**

**Nathan
Rodriguez
Colorado
Springs, CO
Age 6**

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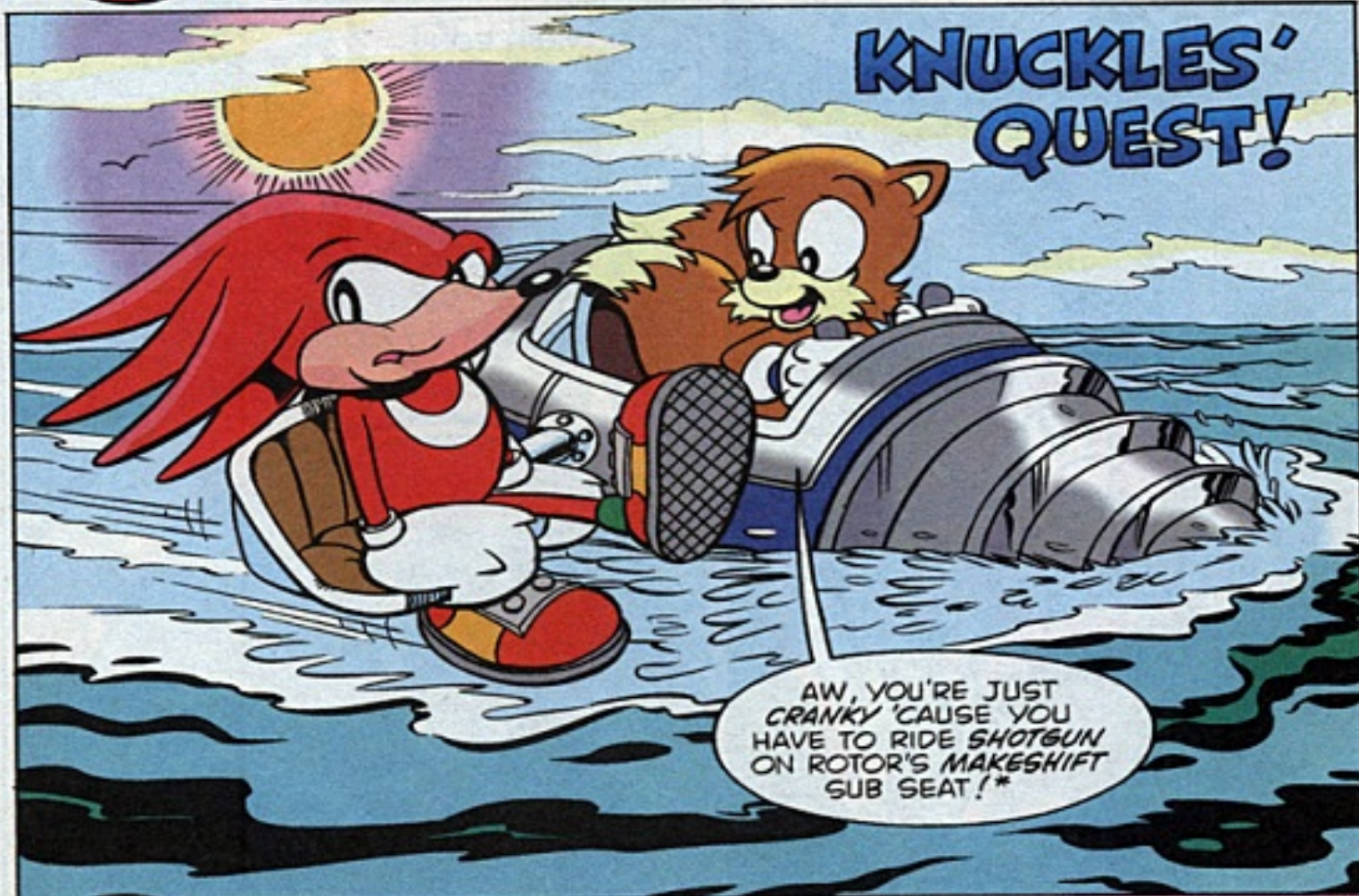


KEN PENDERS
& KENT TAYLOR
WRITERS

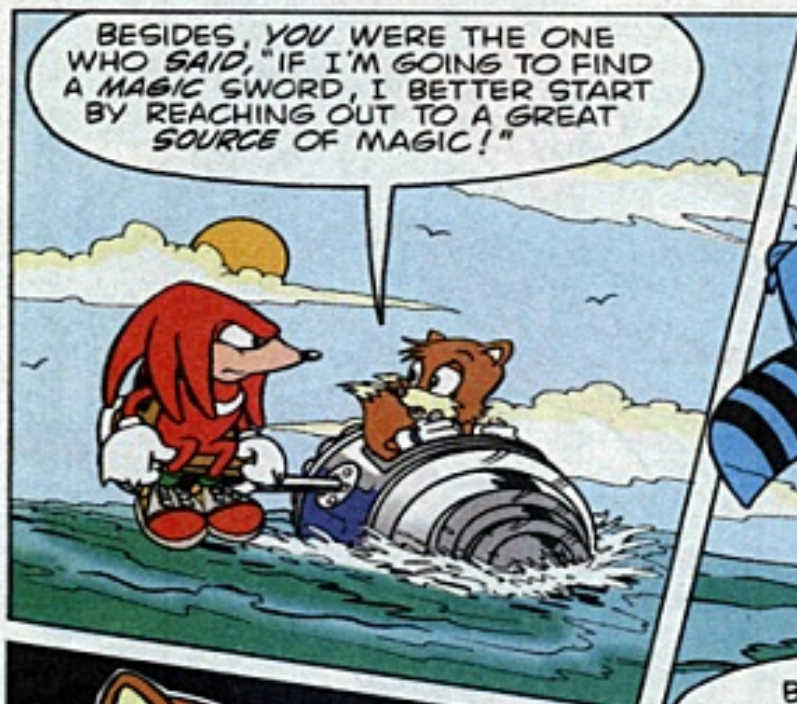
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& BRIAN THOMAS
ARTISTS

MINDY
EISMAN
LETTERER

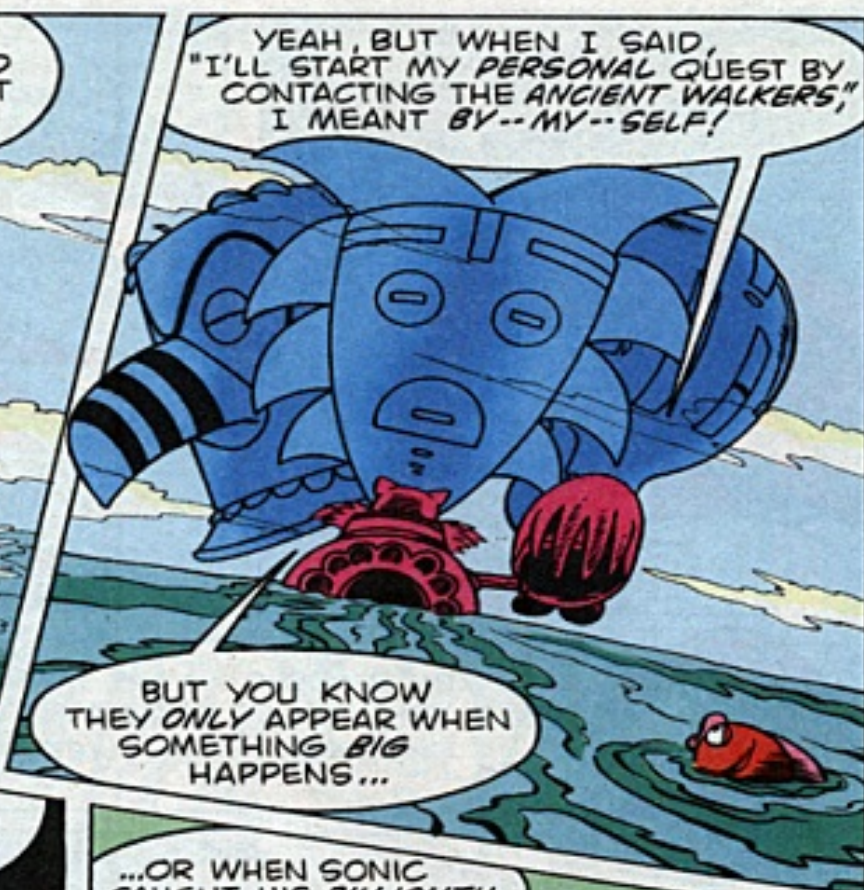
BARRY
GROSSMAN
COLORIST



*EVERYONE REMEMBER THE SEA FOX FROM TAILS' MINI-SERIES? - Freddy



BESIDES, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID, "IF I'M GOING TO FIND A MAGIC SWORD, I BETTER START BY REACHING OUT TO A GREAT SOURCE OF MAGIC!"



YEAH, BUT WHEN I SAID, "I'LL START MY PERSONAL QUEST BY CONTACTING THE ANCIENT WALKERS," I MEANT BY--MY--SELF!

BUT YOU KNOW THEY ONLY APPEAR WHEN SOMETHING BIG HAPPENS...



...LIKE THE TIME YOU THOUGHT YOU WENT TO ECHIDNA HEAVEN...*



...OR WHEN SONIC CAUGHT HIS BILLIONTH POWER RING...*



*TAILS MINI-SERIES#3
YUP, IT'S ME AGAIN.



*...AND YOUR GREAT
GRANDFATHER IS THE
ONLY GUY WHO HAS A
DIRECT LINK WITH YOU,
ME AND THE WALKERS!*



...AND HE
WAS LAST
SEEN ON...

DOWNUNDA!
LAND HO!

ONE HOUR AFTER DOCKING...



...AND THIS IS
THE VERY CRATER
WHERE I FIRST
MET THEM!

WELL, NO ONE'S
HOME, SO LET'S KEEP
SEARCHING!

... AND SEVERAL HOURS LATER ...

OH, NO, KID,
YOU LED US IN
CIRCLES!

BIG DEAL! I STILL SAY
WE'LL FIND ATHAIR HERE!
AFTER ALL, THIS CRATER IS
THE FORMER SITE OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND...!

WHAT?! NO WAY!
IMPOSSIBLE! OK, KID,
I THINK I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF YOUR...

THINK? DO
YOU REALLY,
IMMATURE
ONE...?

ATHAIR!

QUITE A BOLD
WORD FOR A
GUARDIAN
WHOSE ACTIONS
RESOLVE
AROUND
FISTICUFFS!

WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE?
YOU WERE THE ONLY MEMBER
OF OUR FAMILY WHO DIDN'T HAVE
THE COURAGE TO BECOME OUR
HOMELAND'S GUARDIAN!

WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE?
WISDOM DECREES THAT IT
IS BETTER TO SAFEGUARD A
UNIVERSE THAN JUST ONE
PEBBLE IN ITS BELLY!

THAT'S JUST MYSTIC
PSYCHO BABBLE!

YOU GUYS
CERTAINLY HAVE
QUITE A
HISTORY...!

OUR HISTORY IS A MATTER
OF GENETICS, DOUBLE TAIL --
BUT WE HAVE NEVER MET!

LOOK, THE REASON
WE CAME HERE...HUH?!

...IS KNOWN
ONLY TOO
WELL...!

HEY, WHAT'S
THIS TRICK? WHY
IS IT GETTING
SO DARK?

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO US?!

YOU ARE
TRAVELING TO
THE LIMITS OF
INFINITY... BUT
THERE ARE
NO LIMITS TO
INFINITY...

...SO YOUR TRAVEL
TAKES YOU BACK TO
WHERE YOU STARTED...
YET YOU HAVE NOT
TRAVELED AT ALL...

KER-
PLUNK!

HEY, THAT'S NOT
YOU TALKING...!

NO, IT WAS
THEM....!

...THE
ANCIENT
WALKERS!!!

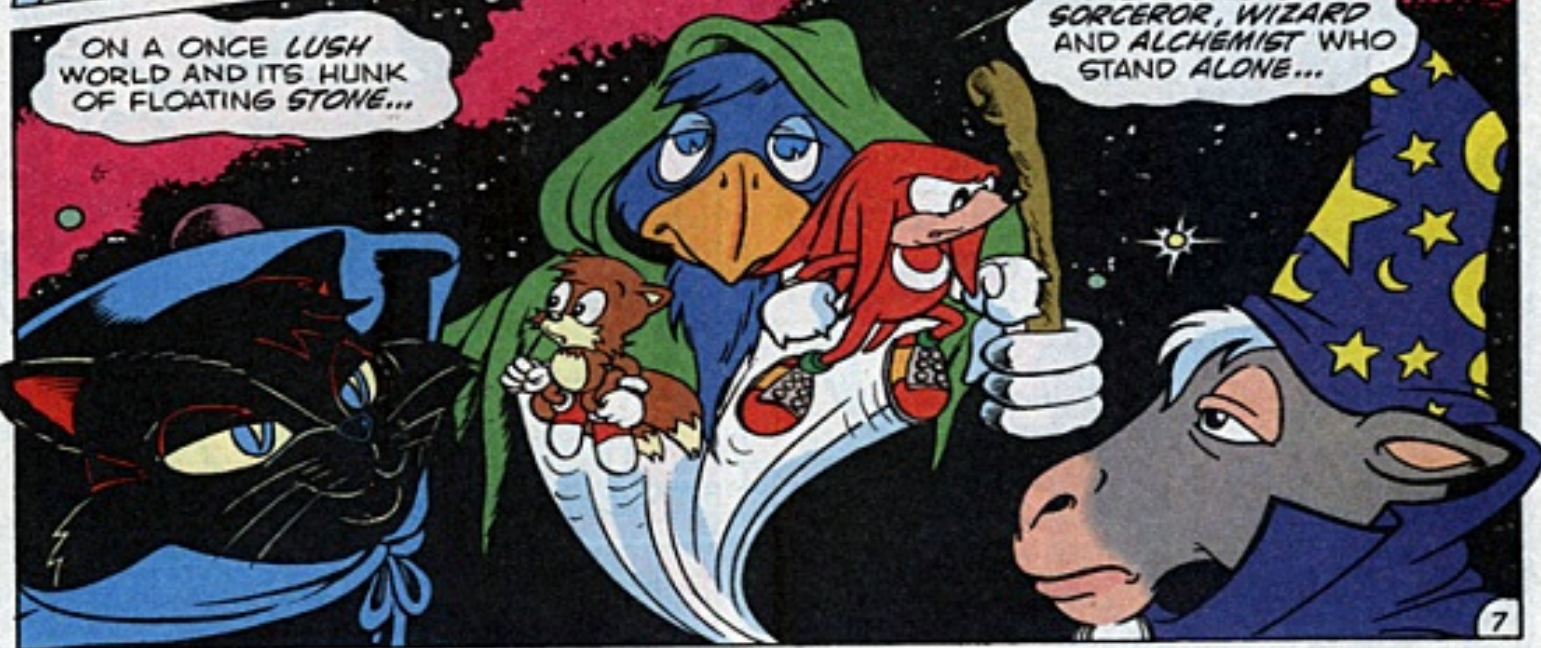
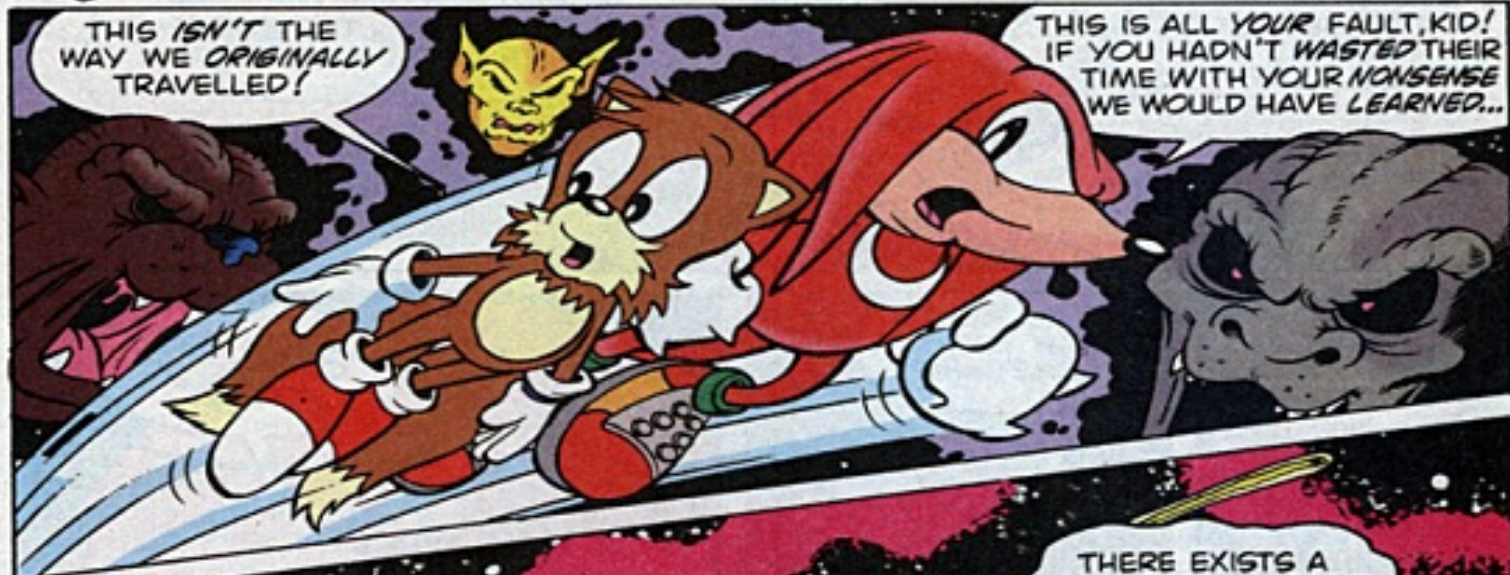
UH--HELLO! WE'RE
HERE TO SAVE KING
ACORN! YOU KNOW HIM,
RIGHT? HE'S HOME NOW,
BUT HE'S CRACKING UP--
-UHH--ERR--TURNING
TO CRYSTAL! AND WE
NEED TO KNOW HOW A
CHAOS EMERALD CAN
SAVE HIM! SO PLEASE
HELP US, OKAY?

JEEZ! AND I
ACCUSED A THAI
OF PSYCHO
BABBLE!!

THROUGH TIME AND
SPACE AND ALTERNATE
DIMENSIONS... PROPERTIES
EXIST BEYOND
COMPREHENSION...

ARTIFACTS OF
ANCIENT AND UNFATHOMABLE
POWER... EXIST TO AID AND
MAKE MEN COWER...

COGNIZANT BY
BEINGS OF SCIENCE
AND MYSTIC SHAMAN...
A SOVEREIGN ROYAL
AND AN EMERALD
HAVE NOTHING IN
COMMON!





A CHARLATAN, ENCHANTRESS
AND PALADIN WITH FAIRNESS
AND COURAGE THOU MUST FACE...

...WITH PATIENCE AND
FORTITUDE A BLADE OF STEEL
THOU MAY EMBRACE!



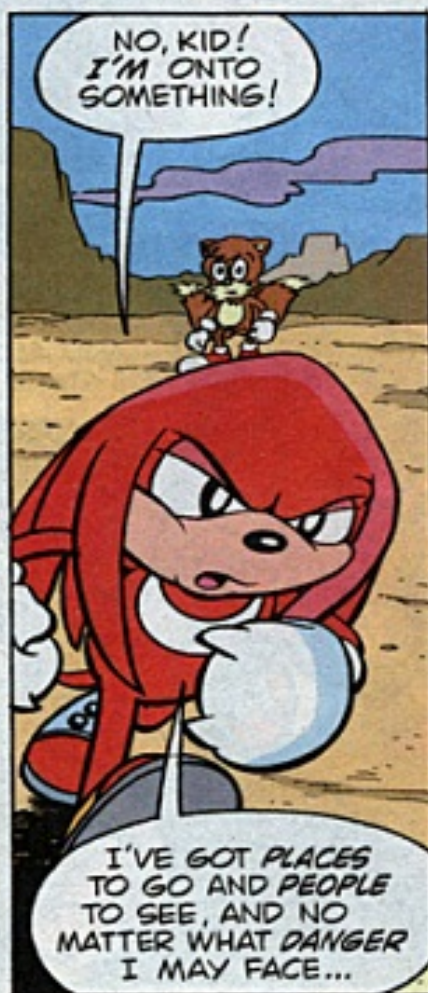
WE'RE BACK
ON DOWNUNDA!
AND THOSE LAST
IMAGES...

I KNOW! THEY REPRESENT
BEINGS OF POWER WHO MAY
HAVE A CLUE TO THE WHERE-
ABOUTS OF THE KING'S SWORD!

WHUMP!



NOW WE'RE
FINALLY ONTO
SOMETHING!



NO, KID!
I'M ONTO
SOMETHING!

I'VE GOT PLACES
TO GO AND PEOPLE
TO SEE, AND NO
MATTER WHAT DANGER
I MAY FACE...



...FROM HERE
ON I GO IT
ALONE!!!

SMACK!

KNUCKLES' QUEST
WILL CONTINUE SOON!
KEEP READING SONIC-
GRAMS FOR DETAILS!

SONIC-GRAMS

THIS JUST IN!

We've packed this issue with soooo much (between the additional two-page "Find Your Name In Print" feature and the Fan Art page), we had to drop the letters page down to one. Don't worry, this is only temporary. By the by, more names and art will be printed in the SONICQUEST mini-series and the upcoming Sonic special, "SONIC LIVE #1," on sale November 1996! Story, art and FIRST-EVER PHOTO COVER by regular Sonic scribe Ken Penders! Also included are "The Substitute Freedom Fighters" by Rich Koslowski and Art Mawhinney & "KnucklesQuest 2" by Kent Taylor and Patrick "SPAZ" Spaziante! More next month! Justin Freddy Gabriele
Editor

P.S.: For those of you who were wondering about the "Robotnik Rules" pin-up in MECHA MADNESS #1, it was painted by none other than Rich Koslowski. Take a bow, Rich.

Dear Sonic Grams,

Lately you've been asking your readers to write in saying whether we'd like to read stories about things like, for instance, Knuckles' and Sally's shared childhood. Let me say... YES! I'd also love to see things like: Downunda stories, Rotor solos, Bunnie solos, and the Misadventures of Antoine De Coollete. They'd all be wonderful.

I'd also like to see a completely separate comic book spinoff; starring Knuckles, the Chaotix and their conflicts on the Floating Island.

I also have a question. Why do the Freedom Fighters use a dimensional portal to try to reach the Zone of Silence? Why not use the Cosmic Interstate? You can get anywhere from there.

B.J. Kvito
Worthington, Ohio

Well B.J., it goes a little something like this: Zones are not other alternate realities. That's why the Cosmic Interstate, which is used to travel between other realities, doesn't work for the Zone of Silence.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

My name is Amanda Johnson and I am 12 years old. I am in sixth grade and have all your comics starting with SONIC #16. I have issue #25 and can't stand to read it because of the way Metal Sonic was defeated. I like him and think he's kind of cute. I have a few questions for you: 1) What happened to the Sonic The Hedgehog cartoon show on Saturdays? 2) How did all the Freedom Fighters meet each other? 3) In what issue did Metal Sonic first appear in? One more thing... say "Hi!" to Metal Sonic for me.

Amanda Johnson
Rosell, IL

Hey Amanda, what's up? To answer your questions: 1) My cartoon is now on The USA network 6 days a week. 2) We Freedom Fighters, at least the core group, met as kids. Others joined up over the years. 3) Though called Mecha Sonic at the time (before I got robotized), Metal Sonic first appeared in SONIC #25 and again in KNUCKLES CHAOTIX SPECIAL #1. Doctor Robotnik's first robotic version of me was called Pseudo-Sonic that first appeared in SONIC #9. "Bots All Folks!"



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THE "FIND YOUR NAME IN PRINT PAGE"



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